Establishment of National Biological Resource Authority

2525. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gene Campaign and the Forum for Bio-technology have prepard a model Bill, providing for establishment ofsovereign rights over biological resources and submitted the same to Government;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to enact a legislation for establishing National Biological Resource Authority; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests is preparing a national legislation on biodiversity to regulate access to genetic material of the country. The proposed legislation *inter alia* provides for setting up of a National Authority. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has set up a Committee of Experts for Biodiversity Legislation under the chairmanship of Prof. M. S. Swaminathan.

Need of Privacy in Rural Health Centres

2526. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that woman in rural areas who are to confide about their health problems, need some privacy but are unable to do so because most of the health centres in rural areas function from a single room which is shared by a single male doctor and patients waiting for their turn; and

(b) if so, what remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The Government is aware of the infrastructural gaps and manpower shortage in primary health care in the rural areas.

(b) The State Governments are expected to use Minimum Needs Programme funds from their State plan allocation for filling infrastructural gaps in the primary health care network.

Suchgaps in the primary health care infrastructure have also been identified as one of the priority areas for investment of additional Central Plan assistance towards the Basic Minimum Services Programme.

Various externally aided projects are under implementation in many States with fund support for improvement of infrastructure as delivery of services at the primary health care level.

Recognition of Medical Degrees of foreign Universities

2527. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 23 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th July, 1997 and State:

(a) what are the details of foreign universities, the MBBS and equivalent degrees of which have been recognised by the Indian Universities, for higher studies and practice in India, as on date; and

(b) whether this has been done on reciprocity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The details of MBBS and equivalent foreign medical qualifications recognised for practice of medicine in India are included in the Second Schedule and Part II of the Third Schedule to Indian Medical Council Act, 1956. The Schedule to I.M.C. Act, 1956 is a priced publication and is available for sale in the office of Medical Council of India at Aiwan-E-Galib Marg, Kotla Road, New Delhi. Section 12 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 provides for establishment of a scheme

maintaining a register of medical practitioners. Persons possessing recognised medical qualification and fulfilling eligibility condition as prescribed by respective Universities are eligible for higher studies.

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान में बेकार पड़ी आयातित मशीनें

2528. श्री राघवजी :
श्री एम०एल० कुरुप :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 28 जुलाई, 1997 के "द हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स" में "इम्पोर्टेड मशीन्स लाइफ सेविंग पेशेन्ट्स" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ;

(ग) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान में उपयोग किए जाने हेतु पायलट की गई मशीनों का ब्यौरा क्या है और ये मशीनें किन किन देशों से आयात की गई थीं और इनके आयात पर कितनी-कितनी धनराशि खर्च की गई थी ;

(घ) क्या मंत्रालय ने इन मशीनों के उपयोग/कार्यान्वयन के बारे में स्वयं अथवा अन्यथा किसी स्तर पर समीक्षा की है ; यदि नहीं तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ङ) क्या सरकार इन आयातित मशीनों को अव्यवहार्य अथवा बेकार घोषित करके उन्हें नई मशीनों से बदलेगी ; यदि हां तो कब तक ?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) संस्थान ने सूचित किया है कि लैब मेडिसिन विभाग के लिए संस्थान द्वारा आयातित केवल एक मशीन की संस्थापित किया जाना बाकी है ।

(ग) संबंधित सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और राज्यसभा के पटल पर रख दी जायेगी ।

(घ) संस्थान एक स्थायी/सांविधिक निकाय है और इसके विभिन्न विभाग अपने उपस्करों का स्वयं स्थानीय/समीक्षा के लिए जिम्मेदार हैं ।

(ङ) चूंकि यह संस्थायत्ता में एक स्वायी संगठित है जो योजनेतर बजट के अन्तर्गत बदलने के बाद में नये उपस्करों के लिए विभागीय स्तर पर प्राप्त मांगों की समीक्षा करता है ।

Scheme of Heart Care Foundation for poor Heart Patients

2529. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the Hindu, dated the 28th July, 1997 to the effect that Heart Care Foundation of India has launched a scheme for patients of acute heart attack who cannot afford the high price of the life saving drugs; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the scheme and the details related to the patients treatment and reimbursement of the cost of the life saving drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House

Contaminated Mineral Water

2530. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 209 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th July, 1997 and state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item